



# Town of Rensselaerville

*Hamlets of Cooksburg, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow, and Rensselaerville*

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Volume 19, Number 3

March 2008

### DRAFT MINUTES OF TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2008

The regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008, at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Nickelsberg and the roll was called with the following results:

**PRESENT WERE:** Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg, Councilman Gary Chase, Councilwoman Marie Dermody, Councilman J. Robert Lansing, Councilwoman Sherri Pine, Attorney Joseph Catalano\*, Highway Superintendent Chase

There were approximately 30 interested citizens present.

**AGENDA RULES & REGULATIONS:** Supervisor Nickelsberg read the Agenda Rules and Regulations which had been previously presented to the Town Board by Councilwoman Dermody. After a lengthy discussion the following motion was made.

Councilwoman Dermody moved to adopt the Agenda Rules & Regulations, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Supervisor Nickelsberg, Councilman Lansing - NA  
Councilman Chase, Councilwoman Dermody, Councilwoman Pine -  
AYE

Motion passed.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Councilman Chase to accept the minutes of the last Regular Meeting held on January 10, 2008, seconded by Councilwoman Pine. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Supervisor Nickelsberg, Councilman Lansing—ABSTAINED  
Councilman Chase, Councilwoman Dermody, Councilwoman Pine -  
AYE

Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that he abstained because the Town Clerk did not put in the minutes everything that Jeannette Rice said and that personal comments changed the meaning.

**TRANSFERS:** There were no transfers.

**ABSTRACT 2008-02 - VOUCHERS:** Supervisor Nickelsberg pulled bills No. 8-

*(Continued on page 8)*



Staff:  
Candy Wilson, Interim  
Director;  
Katie Caprio, Assistant;  
Barbara Husek, Assistant

### Library Bookmark

**First Friday continue!** Please join us at **Conkling Hall on Friday, March 7 at 6:30PM** for *Meet the Robinsons*. In Disney's latest animation feature, Lewis, a brilliant inventor, meets a mysterious stranger named Wilbur Robinson. Wilbur whisks Lewis away in a time machine, and together, they team up to track down Bowler Hat Guy, ending in a showdown with an unexpected twist of fate. Run time: 95 minutes. Rated G.

The **Library website** is now up and **r u n n i n g!** check out [www.uhls.org/rvll\\_library](http://www.uhls.org/rvll_library) for current information about what is happening at the Rensselaerville Library. You can also access our catalog and that of the Upper Hudson Library System from this site, and place orders for items you would like, using your bar-coded Rensselaerville Library card (if you do not yet have one, or would like more information, ask the librarian on duty).

Looking for some people who enjoy handwork and knitting as much as you do? Come join the **knitting and handwork circle** at the Rensselaerville Library, which meets **every Tuesday night from 7:00-9:00PM**. Call 797-3949 for more information.

The next meeting of the **writing group** is scheduled for **Thursday, March 20 from 7:00-9:00PM**. This group is open to all writers and would-be writers of any genre with the goal of "jump-starting" their work amid a group of supportive peers. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Karen Joy Boazman at 239-8210.

The **Dungeons and Dragons gaming group** continues to meet **every Friday night from 6:00-9:00P.M.** New players are always welcome; no experience needed. Dice will be provided. For more information, call the Library at 797-3949.

Help the Library and Conkling Hall celebrate National Poetry Month,

coming up in April! We have several special events planned (all taking place at the Library unless otherwise noted):

- **Poetry Workshop for Adults - Thursday, April 17 and April 24 from 7:00-9:00P.M.** Open to poets and would-be-poets of any level.
- **Poetry Workshop for Children—Friday, April 18 and April 25 from 4:00-5:30P.M.**
- **Favorite Poem Project—Sunday, April 20 at 3:00P.M.** Join us at **Conkling Hall** for the 3rd annual Favorite Poem Project Event. Bring your favorite poems to share aloud in a joyous atmosphere that includes refreshments. This year, it will also include a special open event—several residents will present a dramatic reading from the *Spoon River Anthology*. Open to poetry lovers of all ages.
- **Reading by Dr. Paul Kane—Sunday, April 27 at 3:00P.M.** Dr. Paul Kane, professor at Vassar and the author of several collections of poetry, will be doing a reading of his work at the Library. His poetry has been described as "simultaneously literal and lyrical, imbued with the magic of the matter-of-fact (John Koethe), and as offering "a remarkable medley of wit and sobriety" (Rosanna Warren). Dr. Kane has received fellowships from the NEH and the Guggenheim Foundation, as well as Fulbright and Mellon grants.

It's not too early to think about summer! The Annual Cocktail Party to benefit the Library will be held at the end of May this year. The Library will also be holding its annual Summer Reading Program for children of all ages and interests. This year's theme is "Catching the Reading Bug". Please check the Library website or the Town newsletter for more information in the coming months.

The Library Board of Directors will meet on **Monday, March 17 at**

**Conkling Hall—What's On In March**

**Friday, March 7:** First Friday Movies provided by the Rensselaerville Library. Show time is 6:30. Adults \$2.00, Children \$1.00. See Library for movie information.

**Saturday, March 15:** RHDA (Rensselaerville Historic District Association) presents a St. Patrick's celebration. Come read or listen to the words of Irish Writers. 4:00-6:00PM. Small sandwiches, beer, and wine will be available.

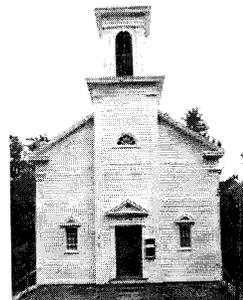
**Wednesday, March 19:** Senior Luncheon. Continue to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with delicious corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes. 12:00 Noon. \$4.00. Readers Welcome: call Jan Bishop 797 9727 to sign up.

**Friday, March 21:** Noteworthy

Coffeehouse. Good music, good company, snacks and coffee. Doors open 7:00 PM. Music begins 7:30 PM.

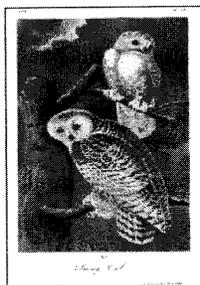
**Pilates: Saturdays 9:00-10:00AM.** Pilates mat class with Sarah Nelson Weiss. Strengthen your abdominals, gain long, lean muscles and work with good alignment. Appropriate for all levels. Please call 239 6825 for more information and to confirm schedule.

You can contact Conkling Hall at (518) 797 3459 or read our website on [www.ConklingHall.org](http://www.ConklingHall.org). We send out frequent email announcements/reminders about our events. If you wish to be added to the list, please give us your email address at [ConklingHall@Earthlink.net](mailto:ConklingHall@Earthlink.net).



Methodist Hill Road  
Rensselaerville, NY  
(518) 797- 3459

**SUMMER SONGBIRDS – SOME'RE NOT**



Join us for a talk by noted birding expert and radio personality

**RICH GUTHRIE**

A close up look at birds of New York by the veteran bird bander

There will be familiar backyard birds, hawks, owls, and a parade of beauties plus a little about what we've done to them and how we can help them

Featuring  
Twenty Audubon Prints  
from the Eldridge Edition of  
*Birds of America*  
Published 1856

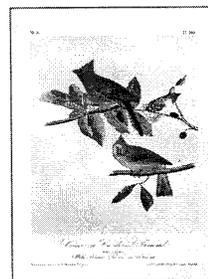
Refreshments and munchies  
will be served!!

**Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 5:30 PM**

**The Raad Gallery**  
7811 Route 81  
Oak Hill, NY  
[www.raadgallery.com](http://www.raadgallery.com)

Presented under the auspices of  
The Oak Hill Preservation Association "OHPA"

Admission is free but seating is limited;  
please call the gallery at (518) 239-8282  
or email [info@raadgallery.com](mailto:info@raadgallery.com) to reserve your seat!!



### From Where I Sit

By Marie Dermody, Town Board Member

From where I sit as a member of our Town Board, I'm amazed at the knowledge I have already acquired in just two short months and am truly honored by the trust and confidence bestowed on me by the voters of this Town. I also realize that, being the newest member, I am in the unique position of trying to bring unity and functionality to a Town Board that has become seriously fractured over the last couple of years. The first few meetings of the year have been extremely difficult with differences of opinion quickly becoming personal attacks, and a handful of audience members being disruptive of the Town Board conducting business. It is an atmosphere that makes deliberation extremely difficult and emotionally trying.

In order to rectify this untenable situation and to try to restore civility to our meetings, the Town Board was forced to adopt rules of meeting procedures. It is unfortunate that we must be so formal, but until civility and decorum are established at our meetings (and throughout our Town government for that matter), we must adhere to reasonable rules of procedure.

We are also trying to unify polar opposing positions on many important issues facing the Town of Rensselaerville such as establishing rules to help officials avoid conflicts of interest and making the procurement process efficient and cost effective. Resolving issues such as these and others is no easy task considering the strong personalities and viewpoints concerned. However, in my short time as a Town Board member, I have already learned some very important lessons.

1. **To err is human.** People, myself included, oc-

asionally make mistakes and commit errors in judgment. This is part of the human condition. The true measure of an honorable person is to admit his/her errors and then work diligently to correct the situation.

2. **No one person or political party or philosophy is always right or always wrong.** As a representative body, it is imperative to listen to all sides of an issue with an open mind and a willingness to compromise. We represent all the people in this Town - the vocal minority who attend Town Board meetings as well as the silent majority. Just because not everyone in Town is present at our meetings does not mean that they do not exist or that their interests are unimportant.
3. **Learn from the past, live in the present, plan for the future.** Rehashing ancient history does little to move this Town forward. It is imperative that everyone learns from what happened in the past and works collaboratively and cooperatively to plan for the future. Close-minded "my way or no way" thinking is not the way to conduct Town business.
4. **Issues are seldom black-and-white.** There are usually many different nuances and various competing interests to any issue. This makes rational deliberation as well as compromise and negotiation important. However, so many issues wind up being battles when it is not necessary. I am always willing to examine all aspects of an issue and am willing to compromise my position when persuaded by sound argument, but I absolutely refuse to be bullied into making a decision.

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### CHICKEN BARBECUE, Take-Out Only Rensselaerville Fire Company – Route 85, Rensselaerville

**Saturday, March 29, 2008**

4:00-6:00 pm  
\$10 per Dinner

Call M.J. Schroeder 797-3255 or Rose Kuhar 797-3360  
Pre-sale Tickets Available – Quantity of Dinners are Limited

Get 'em while they last! Tasty BBQ Chicken!

**Extra Helpings Food Buying Club — Available to Everyone**

Extra Helpings is a program of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and is offered to the community through The Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC) in Westerlo. The program is open to all individuals regardless age or income. Extra Helpings has changed the prices and the menus being offered. Anyone is welcome to purchase any or all of the package options. The menu for each month's Extra Helpings' offerings will still be published one month in advance. March's Extra Helpings menus are as follows:

**March's Regular menu: \$20.00**

3.75 lbs. avg. wt. Bavarian Holiday Ham Half  
 1 lb. Polish Kielbas  
 1lb. (90/10) Hamburger  
 1 lb. Chicken Patties  
 1 pt. Grape Tomatoes  
 1 Cantaloupe

**Special #1: \$17.75**

8 lbs. avg. weight Fresh Spiral Cut Ham

**Special # 2: \$ 19.00 GROCERY BOX**

4 - (6 oz.) Tuna  
 2 - (15 oz.) Fruit Cocktail

2 - (16 oz.) Peanut Butter  
 4 - (1 lb.) Elbow Macaroni  
 2 - (2 lb.) Rice  
 6 - (7.25 oz.) Macaroni and Cheese  
 4 each - (15 oz.) Peas, Corn, Cut Green Beans

**Special #3: \$30.00 MEAT BOX**

2 lbs. Cranberry & Apple Stuffed Pork Chops  
 3 lbs. Honey Mustard Flavored Chicken Breast  
 3 lbs. Home-Style Beef Patties  
 2 lbs. Maple Breakfast Sausage Links  
 3 lbs. Chicken Patties

(Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Orders with payment are due at the HCRC office by MARCH 5TH for pick-up on **March 25, 2008**. HCRC distributes Extra-Helpings at the Rensselaerville Firehouse from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. and at St. Bernadette's Church in Berne from 11:30 to 12:00 p.m. on delivery days. The pick-up site must be noted with each order. Anyone wishing more information regarding Extra-Helpings or other Hilltowns Community Resource Center services, please call 797-5256. HCRC's mailing address is P.O. Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.

**Senior Corner**

**Need Information?** Elder Source Line (447- 7177) has information about Senior Services to help in a variety of ways. Call between 8:30AM- 12:30PM Monday through Friday. Call for free assistance with housing options, insurance counseling, benefits and entitlements, community resources, adult daycare, and caregiver options. This program is funded by United Way of Northeastern New York and Senior Services of Albany Foundation.

**Senior Citizens Club:** We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Medusa Firehouse at noon. \$1.00 is collected. ALL senior citizens are invited to join the club. Please bring a covered dish to share and/or dessert. Members need to bring their own plates and utensils. Coffee is provided.

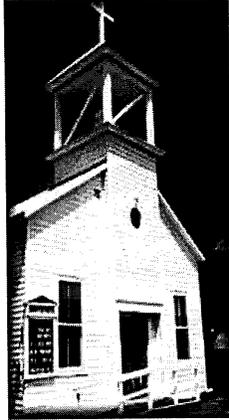
**Senior Van:** Tuesday: Bryant's Center, Greenville  
 Thursday: Cobleskill (Wal-Mart) Monday, Wednesday and Friday: Van is available to travel to doctor appointments. Call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 regarding scheduling and/or arranging for van pick up.

**Helderberg Senior Services:** Lunches are served Monday through Friday at noon for \$3.75. The Grange would appreciate one day advance notice. Call Marie at 797- 3652 between 9:00AM- 1:00PM for information and reservations.

**We need volunteer drivers!!!!** If you have a valid driver's license and could volunteer a couple hours of your time now and then, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kathy Hallenbeck,



Town Clerk, for more details.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

*Preston Hollow Baptist Church*  
Route 145, Preston Hollow,  
239- 6544  
Worship: Sunday - 11:00AM

*Potter Hollow Union Church*  
Potter Hollow, 734- 5106  
Worship: Sunday - 9:00AM  
Visitation & Prayer  
Wednesday—8:30AM

*Trinity Episcopal Church*  
Trinity Lane, Rensselaerville,  
797- 5395  
Holy Eucharist & Church School  
Sunday - 11:00AM

*United Church of Christ*  
Medusa, 239- 6119  
Worship: Sunday - 9:15AM

**Easter Sunday**—The United Church of Christ will celebrate a Fellowship Breakfast with one serving at 8:30AM in the Church hall. Pancakes, French Toast, Sausages, etc., will be served, with a free-offering taken to cover expenses. Everyone is invited to come and stay for the Easter service at 9:15AM.

**175th Anniversary Celebration**—The United Church of Christ will celebrate it's 175th Anniversary beginning April 20th beginning with a Church Service at 2:00PM. Afterward there will be an Old Fashioned Covered Dish dinner at the hall. All are invited to attend.

**From Where I Sit**

(Continued from page 4)

5. **Might does not make right.** There is no victory when anyone on either side of the table resorts to yelling, scolding, name-calling, brow-beating, and other negative behaviors. It is imperative upon each and every one of us to behave in a manner that sets the tone for all public meetings. This is the only way to guarantee that Town business gets accomplished and that well-informed decisions are made in the best interest of the Town.

6. **The Town Board acts as one body.** No one member of the Town Board can act unilaterally on behalf of the Board. Each of us is exactly 20% of the Board with the same rights and responsibilities other than the additional financial bookkeeping responsibilities of the Town Supervisor. This basic fact of Town governance is provided in Town Law. Thus, each Town Board member has no more or no less authority than any other board member. This means that no single member of the Town Board can act for or commit the board as a body to any particular program or policy. Therefore, we need to act as a single entity and benefit from having five opinions instead of one.

7. **Believe nothing of what you hear.** At our Town Board meetings, there are far too many instances of far-flung generalizations, exaggerations, and accusations with nothing to back it up. I have made it my mission to have adequate documentation to support my position on issues, and I encourage other Board members to do likewise.

8. **Positive change happens slowly.** Our Town government did not become dysfunctional overnight. Restoring functionality will not happen overnight either. Yes, changes need to occur and we have started that process. But it is fruitless to be rushed into change without careful examination of the issues and reasoned deliberation. To me, getting it done right is far better than getting it done fast.

I expect that I will continue to learn many other lessons as I serve on the Town Board. I am willing to admit that I don't know everything. I'm just hoping that others come to this same realization about themselves, and that we all try to work together towards doing the right thing for our Town and its people.

### *Rensselaerville Celebrates National Poetry Month*

During the month of April, Conkling Hall and the Rensselaerville Library will join forces once again for our Third Annual Celebration of National Poetry Month. One of the highlights of April's Celebration is the Favorite Poem Project during which neighbors of all ages bring their favorite poems to read aloud in a joyous and supportive atmosphere that includes wine, cheese, coffee and cake. Last year's Favorite Poem Day drew more than 50 readers, and poems ranged from the hilarious to the somber, from poems by children's poet Shel Silverstein to poems by Tennyson and Blake, and poems by contemporary poets Billy Collins and Mary Oliver among others. This year's Favorite Poem Day will also include a special opening event: a dramatic reading from the *Spoon River Anthology* by several residents and friends.

So look in your drawers and files for the poem you learned in school, heard in childhood, read in a book or magazine, or that was given to you by a friend and bring it to **Conkling Hall on Sunday April 20 at 3:00.**

Another exciting event during National Poetry Month is the visit of guest poet Paul Kane. Dr.

Kane, a professor at Vassar and the author of several collections of poetry, including *Work Life* and *The Farther Shore*, will be doing a reading of his work at the **Rensselaerville Library on Sunday April 27 at 3:00.** Dr's Kane's poetry has been described as: "simultaneously literal and lyrical, imbued with the magic of the matter-of-fact" (John Koethe); and as offering "a remarkable medley of wit and sobriety" (Rosanna Warren). Dr. Kane has been the recipient of fellowships from the NEH and the Guggenheim Foundation, as well as Fulbright and Mellon grants.

Other events being planned for the month include a poetry performance and possibly an Open Mic at the **Friday night Coffehouse (Noteworthy's) at Conkling Hall on 4/18**, and Writing Workshops for Children and Adults at the Rensselaerville Library (tentative dates: Friday 4/18, 4- 5:30pm, children; 4/25, 7- 9pm, adults).

So, save the last two weekends in April to celebrate the human spirit as well as the written word at Rensselaerville's Third Annual Celebration of National Poetry Month.

### *Albany County Department of Health Rabies Clinic*

The following series of Rabies Vaccination Clinics for dogs and cats has been arranged by the Albany County Department of Health in cooperation with the Capital District Veterinary Medical Society. All dogs and cats must be on leashes or in carriers. A record of prior vaccination will be required for three-year immunization.

If no record is presented, a one year vaccination certification will be issued. All clinics are open to any Albany County resident. Any inquiry can be directed to Division of Environmental Health Services, 447- 4620 or 447- 4625.

Saturday, March 22, 2008  
Berne Highway Garage—Route 443, Berne, NY  
1:00- 2:30 PM for Cats  
2:30- 4:00 PM for Dogs

Albany County Residents:  
\$5.00 Donation per animal

### *St. Patrick's Day Celebration*

Rensselaerville Historic District Association (RHDA) will present a St. Patrick's Day celebration at Conkling Hall, Saturday, March 15 from 4:00- 6:00PM. Come listen or read from your favorite Irish authors. Complimentary sandwiches and snacks will be served, and there will be a cash bar for authentic Irish beverages.

If you are interested in doing a reading, or would like more information, please contact Alan Wilson at 797- 3902 (dietrich.wilson@verizon.net) or Nora Logan at 797- 3243 (nlogan@aol.com).



***Draft Town Board Minutes***

*(Continued from page 1)*

089 and 8-099, GNH concerning the work done by the maintenance crew.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to pay all signed bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine. A roll call vote was taken with the following results;

Supervisor Nickelsberg, Councilman Lansing - NA  
Councilwoman Dermody, Councilman Chase, Councilwoman Pine - AYE

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Letters were received from Paulette Ryder - Living Room Learners, Howard James - Fleming Road and Janet Haseley - Conkling Hall.

**REPORTS:** Reports were received from Supervisor Nickelsberg, Superintendent Chase, Town Clerk Hallenbeck and Attorney Catalano reported on each agenda item as they were listed in the agenda. Medusa Fire Company mentioned that they will have a breakfast this coming Saturday and on May 31<sup>st</sup> they will hold the Medusa Fest.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CLERK I TO SUPERVISOR:** Ms. Packard, Clerk I to the Supervisor, read a letter of resignation to the Town Board.

**AMERICAN TOWER:** Jeff Pine reported that he was able get in touch with American Tower. They are aware that they need to get an engineer's report on the Tower. Attorney Catalano and Jeff Pine will keep on top of this.

**NEPOTISM LAW:** Attorney Catalano is waiting for a written legal opinion from the State Comptroller on this law. Councilwoman Dermody and a resident have been gathering information on this topic also.

**PROCUREMENT POLICY:** Councilwoman Dermody presented to the Town Board information 11 towns and villages showing what their limits are concerning the procurement policy. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning this policy.

**FIRE WALL:** Councilman Chase is looking into a separate building for housing the records rather than having to construct a fire wall. He is still gathering information on this type of building.

**E-MAIL FOR COUNCILMEN:** Surferz Net will be asked to come to the work meeting to explain the process and cost of making it possible for the councilmen to access e-mails for them from off site.

**TOWN PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE:** Councilman Chase is working to get representative from each hamlet together to discuss this.

**MR. SEEGER - TANGLEWOOD ROAD:** The contract was awarded late in the fall to have this work completed. The work has not been done. The Town Board will contact the contractor and get a get a written statement that they will guarantee their work. The easements process must also be done.

**SHED:** The Town Board moved to purchase a 10 foot by 16 foot shed to house the dogs that are picked up by the Dog Control Office. The cost of the shed is \$2650.00.

**PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD POSITION AND SECRETARY:** A motion was made to create the position of Planning Board & Zoning Secretary as it was. Motion Unanimously Carried.

A motion was made to appoint Rebecca Platel Planning Board and Zoning Board Secretary. Motion Unanimously Carried.

**WASTE OIL FURNACE:** The Town Board discussed the waste oil furnace. The chimney needs to be

*(Continued on page 9)*

*Draft Town Board Minutes*

(Continued from page 8)  
fixed again.

**NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to appoint Nancy Class as the Newsletter Coordinator, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Supervisor Nickelsberg, Councilman Lansing - NA  
Councilman Chase, Councilwoman Dermody, Councilwoman Pine - AYE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Charles James - Fleming Road:** Mr. James read a letter into the minutes concerning the condition of Fleming Road.

**MEDUSA FIRE COMPANY:** The Medusa Fire Company would like to receive their FEMA funding for \$2500.00. The check will be cut within a week.

**ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS RESOLUTIONS:** The Town Board reviewed and voted on 11 resolution received from the Association of Towns. The Town delegate will have a vote on these resolution at the annual meeting next week.

**HIGHWAY BIDS:** The Town Clerk was authorized to advertise for bids for items to be used by the Highway Department, stone, gas, fuel oil, sand, etc. The bids will be opened at the March meeting.

**TOWN INSURANCE:** Supervisor Nickelsberg will meet with Mr. Pazin, our insurance representative, on the 20<sup>th</sup> to go over our insurance general liability needs.

**ROADS & FOIL:** Erika Wernhammer spoke on and asked questions concerning the freedom of information law. She also spoke on Davis Mountain Road and the damage done to her vehicle.

**MR. GANGI:** Mr. Gangi read a letter to the Town Board concerning conflict of interest.

**RADIO COMMUNICATION QUOTE:** The Town Board accepted the quote from River Valley Radio for \$6670.08. This includes new radios for all the vehicles, desktop microphone w/monitor, antennas, charger.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** Comments were heard from the audience concerning the work done to the building, the water district, the website, highway records, payroll service, bay for the bus.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:42PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathleen A. Hallenbeck, Town Clerk

\*arrived at 7:15PM

*Note: Town Board Minutes are not final until approved by the Town Board. Full Town Board minutes can be found on the Town website ([www.rensselaerville.com](http://www.rensselaerville.com)) or at the Town Hall.*

### ***Volunteer News and Events***

#### ***Medusa VFD***

*Company Meeting: Monday, March 3rd, at 8:00 PM*

*Drill & Work Meeting: Monday, March 10th and March 17th, at 7:00PM*

***Upcoming Events: Lunch Served***

*Manhattan and New England Clam Chowder*

*Friday, March 1st, 11:00AM-1:00PM*

***Our Monthly Breakfast***

*Saturday, March 15 and April 19, 7:00-11:00AM*

#### ***Rensselaerville VFD***

*Company Drill: Monday, March 3rd and 10th, at 8:00PM*

*Ladies Battalion: Wednesday, March 5th, at 7:00PM*

*Company Meeting: Wednesday, March 26th, at 8:00PM*

***Upcoming Events: Annual Easter Egg Hunt. - The Best One Yet...***

*Saturday, March 22nd at 2:00PM*

***Chicken Barbeque Take-Out***

*Saturday, March 29th, 4:00-6:00PM*

#### ***Tri-Village VFD***

*Company Meeting: Wednesday, March 5th, at 8:00PM*

#### ***Rensselaerville Volunteer Ambulance Service***

*Company Meeting: Wednesday, March 19th, at 7:00PM*

### ***Good News for Local Homeschooling Families***

Homeschooling families in rural areas often face two problems: finding companions during public school hours and finding instruction in the subjects that a parent may feel unqualified to teach.

Homeschooling families in the five hamlets will no longer face either of these problems! A group called Living Room Learners has been formed that will meet on a regular basis. Children and teens will have plenty of opportunity to play, talk, and use up some energy both indoors and out. Certain parents will volunteer to lead classes within their field(s) of expertise. These would include offerings such as art, science, and how to play a sport.

Parents will also have time to socialize! We'll dis-

cuss homeschooling regulations, preparing curricula, living on one income, the cute things our kids have been doing, and anything else that gives us an excuse to have an adult conversation!

In addition, group members will receive discounts to field trip experiences such as planetarium shows, concerts, and place of historical interest.

For more information, please contact Paulette at 239-8414

*Living Room Learners regrets that we cannot accommodate children with special behavioral needs at this time. However, we do embrace families of all races, religions, and learning styles.*

**Extra Tax Collection Hours**

For your convenience, on Saturday, March 29th, the Town Hall will be open between 10:00AM- 1:00PM for tax collection.

**POST OFFICE INFORMATION**

Rensselaerville: 797- 3231  
 Medusa: 239- 4826  
 Preston Hollow: 239- 6111

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 & Painting  
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 Owner/Operator  
 www.JamesBucci.com  
 James@JamesBucci.com

BBB

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 Green  
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 F: (607) 797-3231

**Our Town Newsletter**

As our newsletter continues to grow, we just want to remind you of a few things that was adopted by the Town Board to help get our newsletter get out in a professional and timely manner.

- All submissions will be edited for grammar, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics, and that those individuals submitting items for the newsletter be aware of this action. No content will be edited.
- Certain items in each monthly newsletter are time- sensitive. Therefore, it is our recommendation that all submissions be received by the Town office no later than the 2nd Friday of the month in order to be included in the up-coming newsletter. Any submissions received after that date will not be considered for publication in the up-coming newsletter but will be included in the subsequent newsletter.

All ads, articles, and events should be sent to the Town Hall via email, newsletter@rensselaerville.com and/or townclerk@rensselaerville.com.

**Newsletter Advertising Rates**

2" x 3.5" (Business Card)	\$15.00
4" x 3" (Quarter Page)	\$23.00
5" x 8" (Half Page)	\$40.00
8.5" x 11" (Full Page)	\$75.00
Separate Full Page Insert	\$150.00

Contact the Town Hall if you have a full page insert for the Newsletter.

Pay in Advance for a full year and get the 12th month FREE.

Not-for-Profit organizations, please call the Town Hall for advertising rates.



# MEDUSA FEST

Held in the Hamlet of Medusa, NY 12120  
Saturday May 31, 2008



Flea Market setup time is 8:00AM- must be ready for the Public by 9:00AM

End Time is 4:00PM (if you are packing up early you will not be invited to return)

**BOOTH SPACE:**

**INDOOR:** The space inside are about 7 x 10 \$30.00 one table and chairs are provided

**OUTDOOR:** Approximately 15' x 20' space also \$30.00 you must supply your own tables.

## Reservations are needed by May 13, 2008

**Please Note:**

Vendors are responsible for having NYS Sales Certificate and for collecting the appropriate sales tax.  
Please return the application below with appropriate payment to:

Medusa Volunteer Fire Company  
P.O. Box 16  
Medusa, NY 12120  
Attn: Medusa Fest Committee  
Or call 518- 966- 5239

Please make all checks payable to the Medusa Volunteer Fire Company

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Merchandise: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Indoor: \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for joining us last year, because you were here last year you have first choice for the same spot this year. Please let me know by May 5, 2008

This year we will be offering Chicken Barbeque. It will start at 11:00AM and we will be serving hamburgers and hotdogs throughout the day. There will be a DJ from 3:00PM.

The Medusa Volunteer Fire Company is not responsible for any injuries, theft, fire, Etc.

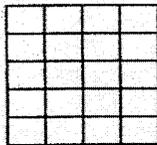


# WHAT'S THE BEEF?

Your Town Board of 2007 spent \$100,000+ of our tax money  
To give us the 5-acre zoning WE ALREADY HAD!

## WHAT DO WE GET FOR OUR TAX DOLLARS?

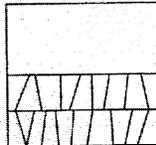
**CURRENT LAW**  
Death by 1000 cuts can occur when applied to Minor Sub-divisions\*



- Higher Taxes
- Suburban Sprawl
- Destroys Rural Character
- Benefits a Few Land Owners
- Agricultural Land Lost Forever!

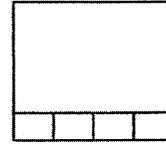
\*Based on sub-division of 100 ac lot.

**CURRENT LAW**  
Provides possibility for Major Sub-division with 2 acre lot Clustering\*



- Higher Taxes
- Suburban Sprawl
- Destroys Rural Character
- Benefits a Few Land Owners
- Benefits Developers
- Marginal Protection for Ag soils!

**BEST OPTION**  
20 acre NET density Major Sub-division with Clustering\*



- Lower Taxes for a All
- Saves Rural Character
- More Affordable for Young Families and 1<sup>st</sup> Time Buyers
- Offers More Options for Land Owners
- Benefits the Greater Good
- Definitely Preserves Soils and Farmland NOW and for FUTURE Generations.

## WHERE'S THE BEEF?



**Sat. March 8<sup>th</sup> 4-6 pm - Rensselaerville Fire House, Rt. 85**

Come and sample locally grown grass-fed beef, and other locally grown meats, grilled to perfection and hear Sandy Gordon, Carol Clement and other farmers speak about farming in the Hilltowns!

**COME, LEARN MORE – BUY FOODS FROM YOUR LOCAL FARMER  
– SUPPORT FARMLAND PROTECTION IN THE HILLTOWNS –  
DONATIONS TO THE CAUSE WILL BE ACCEPTED  
LEARN MORE ABOUT US:**

**[www.rensselaervillefarmlandprotection.org](http://www.rensselaervillefarmlandprotection.org)**

**Monument to Rensselaerville's Fallen Soldiers**

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society

On July 4, 1867, a 17-foot marble monument was dedicated to the 29 soldiers from the Town of Rensselaerville who died in the Civil War.

Hon. Lyman Tremain of Albany delivered a 25-page dedicatory oration to a large crowd. The ceremony was under the auspices of the Soldiers' Monument Association which had been formed to raise funds to establish the monument. The introduction to Tremain's speech is printed below, along with the names and ranks of the fallen soldiers, their ages, and the regiments to which they belonged. The monument stands on a knoll in the Rensselaerville village cemetery where it can be seen from all points of approach.

An article published by the Rensselaerville Historical Society in *The Rural Folio*, Vol. 2, No. 3, Summer 1977 says, "It is a fitting tribute of gratitude and respect for our noble dead, and by it the citizens of Rensselaerville express the love they cherish for the memory, and the reverence they bear for the deeds of the fallen patriots".

INTRODUCTION

Soon after the close of the war which for years had deluged the country with blood, the young men and women of Rensselaerville, animated by the same spirit of patriotism which had been so nobly developed during the war, inaugurated the necessary steps toward erecting a suitable memorial to the memory of the representatives of that town who had given their lives to their country's service.

On the roll of martyrs to the great cause, twenty-nine were found, whom Rensselaerville felt proud to honor as her own noble sons. Many had fallen upon the field of battle, some had died of starvation and neglect in southern prisons, others, torn and shattered by wounds, or wrecked by disease, had been more fortunately permitted to die amid their friends at home.

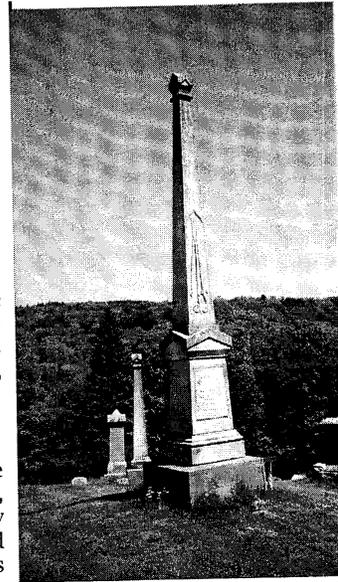
The necessary funds having been secured by the untiring energy and perseverance of the young people of the town, a fine monument was purchased of the Messrs. Browns, of Schoharie, N.Y., and erected during the month of June, 1867. It is a noble shaft, cut from gray Massachusetts marble, and is a model of symmetry, of proportion, artistic design, and workmanship. The spire is surmounted by a cap, and over the die is cut, with faithful correctness, a stack of arms, while at the foot of the stack are two caps; the whole significant of the service rendered by the sleeping heroes. On the front of the die is engraved in gothic letters, the following inscription:

THEY DIED IN THE DEFENSE  
of their  
COUNTRY.  
ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF RENSSELAERVILLE  
1867

On the remaining three sides of the die are cut the names of the twenty-nine soldiers of the Town of Rensselaerville, who died in the war of the rebellion, the regiments to which they belonged, and their respective rank and ages. The total height of the Monument is a little over seventeen feet.

The following names are inscribed thereon:

Lieut. C. Swainee Evens.....24 - 7<sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery  
Sergt. Edward Slater.....28 - 7<sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery  
Sergt. John Rider.....35 - 7<sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery



(Continued on page 16)

### Monument to Rensselaerville's Fallen Soldiers

(Continued from page 15)

Corp. Jonathan Russel.....	29	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. Andrew Fenton.....	28	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. Isaac E. Finch.....	21	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. Lester M. Fish.....	20	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. George Van Wie.....	21	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. Edward Holmes.....	29	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. John Greene.....	30	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. Levi Smith.....	23	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. George Bouton.....	28	- 7 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. Silas White.....	18	- 5 <sup>th</sup> N.Y.H. Artillery
Priv. Peter Rafferty.....	33	- 3 <sup>rd</sup> N.Y. Cavalry
Sergt. Philip Miller.....	30	- 118 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. Charles Green.....	20	- 15 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Engineers
Priv. John West.....	17	- 61 <sup>st</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. Charles West.....	24	- 24 <sup>th</sup> Ill. Vols.
Priv. Edwin Crandall.....	21	- 127 <sup>th</sup> Penn. Vols.
Lieut. William C. Conkling.....	24	- 30 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. Charles Bouton.....	27	- 91 <sup>st</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. David Bouton.....	23	- 91 <sup>st</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. Charles F. Bouton.....	23	- 91 <sup>st</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. William Doty.....	27	- 91 <sup>st</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. Milton Jones.....	20	- 177 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. Lorenzo Whitting.....	22	- 177 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. George Schermerhorn.....	22	- 44 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. Lewis Davis.....	22	- 44 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols.
Priv. George Swartwout.....	26	- 25 <sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols.

*Ed. Note: Notice that of the 29 names, nearly half were in the 7<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Heavy Artillery. According to a book about this regiment, Carnival of Blood, The Civil War Ordeal of the Seventh N.Y. Heavy Artillery (by Robert Keating, published 1988 by Butternut & Blue of Baltimore), the 7<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Heavy Artillery lost so many men during the war that nearly all of its officers, that it was combined with other regiments.*



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### REFUSE/RECYCLING CENTER

The Rensselaerville Refuse/Recycling Center is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays from 7:00AM - 3:45PM. Please display your permit. If you do not have one, you can obtain one at the Town Clerk's Office.

Please cover your refuse so that it is not left on someone else's property. No sheetrock or shingles will be accepted.

**More Information About Rensselaerville Road Names**

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Rensselaerville Historical Society

Gene Smith has given us more information about the origin of six Rensselaerville road names. This is what she told us:

Sayre Road was named for Frank Sayre who lived below the school house. Siebert Road was named for Joseph and Bertha Siebert who had a boarding house there. Cole Road is named for Emma Cole. She had three or four kids. The road is now called Meringlo.

Camp Medusa Road was named for a re-

ligious camp on that road that Porter Wright built on top of the hill. They still use it as a camp. Roney Road is named for Hector and Eva Mae Roney. Steadman Road is named for Ellworth Steadman. He lives in Florida and graduated with Gene.

Gertie Hillicoss adds that Cheese Hill was named after a cheese factory that was once up on the hill. Gertie came to this area in 1932 but the factory was gone before she came here.

**Special Town Hall Hours in March**

Tuesday, March 18, 2008 2:00- 7:00PM

Friday, March 21, 2008 Town Hall will close at Noon

Friday, March 28, 2008 Town Hall will close at 1:45PM to attend a meeting

**Why I Miss Porter Wright**

Often when I look at our broad mountain view, I remember Porter saying, "When they planted buckwheat here, it was all white out there." We would be sitting on our porch, Porter and Louise in rocking chairs, Porter reminiscing. If I complained that the road needed fixing, he'd say, "Be patient. It'll be done." And yes, he scolded me once, "You've planted so many trees, before long you're not going to have that view!" Porter gave me plants from his garden, which continue to grow in mine, though I think they liked it better in his. I especially cherished his love of place, his sense of decency, and his genuine friendliness.

Joan Raines

*Paid Advertisement*

**Spring is around the corner!**

and Jimmy Walker's  
**GREENHOUSE** in



Preston Hollow will be open  
and ready with spring annuals, heirloom  
tomatoes, herbs, decorative baskets and  
planters for your office, home and garden.



Call for custom designed , or color-  
coordinated baskets for pick up in May. We  
also do landscape design, and custom  
plantings for home and commercial sites.

Jimmy Walker & Dennis Pitts  
239-4039

Check out our web-site for  
planting ideas.  
[www.jwgreenhouse.com](http://www.jwgreenhouse.com)



*Paid Advertisement*

**Important Contact Information**

Town Board Meetings  
Second Thursday 7:00 pm

Working Meeting  
Tuesday 7:00 pm  
before regular meeting as needed

Town Justice Court  
Mondays 7:00 pm

Planning Board  
First and third Thursdays 7:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Second Tuesday 7:00 pm

Building Inspector/Zoning Officer  
Thursday 8:00-10:00am, 7-9 pm

Town Clerk's Hours  
Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-3:30pm  
Thursday 1:30pm-7:30pm  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Supervisor's Hours  
Wednesdays 10am - 12 pm  
Home office 7 days 7:30am - 10:30pm

Assessors' Hours  
Thursday 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Assessors' Clerk Hours  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning

Dog Control Officer  
Cheryl Baitsholts  
518-797-5201

Town Refuse Station Hours  
Wednesday and Saturday  
7:00am-3:45pm

Water/Sewer District Meeting  
First Thursday 7:00 pm

Town Supervisor  
Jost Nickelsberg

Town Clerk & Collector  
Kathleen A. Hallenbeck

Town Justices  
Victor LaPlante,  
Victoria Kraker

Attorney for the Town  
Joseph Catalano

Deputy Town Attorney  
Jon Kosich

Councilpersons  
Gary Chase, Marie Dermody,  
J. Robert Lansing, Sherri Pine

Building Inspector  
& Code Enforcement Officer  
Mark Overbaugh

Assessors  
Jeff Pine, Peter J. Hotaling, Jr.,  
Donna Kropp  
Rachel Chase, Clerk II

Highway Superintendent  
G. Jon Chase

Planning Board  
Muriel Frasher, Chairman  
Georgette Koenig, Secretary

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Alden Pierce, Chairman  
Georgette Koenig, Secretary

Deputy Town Clerk  
Dee Andrus

Bookkeeper  
Sarah Packard

Town Highway Department  
518-239-4225, 518-797-3798

Sen. Neil Breslin, 42nd Dist. LOB,  
Albany, NY 12247  
518-455-2800

Assem. John McEneny,  
102nd Dist. LOB,  
Albany, NY 12248  
518-455-4100

County Legislature, 39th Dist.  
Alexander (Sandy) Gordon  
144 Beebe Road, Berne, NY 12023  
518-872-2602

Albany County Highway Dept.  
518-239-6715, 518-239-6710

Rensselaerville Fire Company, 911  
Social Number - 797-3218

Tri-Village Fire Company, 911  
Social number - 239-6780

Medusa Fire Company, 911  
Back up emergency number,  
943-9010  
Social number - 239-6166

Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911  
For Information - 518-797-5233

Albany County Sheriff, 911  
518-765-2351

State Police  
Rensselaerville and Hilltowns, 911  
518-477-9333

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Supervisor: [townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com](mailto:townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com)  
Town Clerk: [townclerk@rensselaerville.com](mailto:townclerk@rensselaerville.com)  
Planning Board: [planningboard@rensselaerville.com](mailto:planningboard@rensselaerville.com)  
Assessors: [townassessors@rensselaerville.com](mailto:townassessors@rensselaerville.com)  
Newsletter: [newsletter@rensselaerville.com](mailto:newsletter@rensselaerville.com)

# MAZE EASTER MAZE

START  
→

OH OH! THE EASTER  
BUNNY IS MISSING SOME  
EASTER EGGS. DO YOU  
THINK IT MAY BE BECAUSE  
HE ATE THEM? SGLY  
EASTER BUNNY! DON'T  
YOU KNOW? BUNNIES  
DON'T EAT EGGS!

TRY TO FIND YOUR  
WAY TO THE  
EASTER BUNNY'S  
TUMMY TO FIND  
THE EGGS BEFORE  
HE TRIES TO EAT  
SOME MORE!



FINISH

